

composition comprise each at least two ingredients which are intimately mixed. This means that for the purpose of the invention that the two or more ingredients of the component are substantially homogeneously divided in the component. The detergent composition can comprise other ingredients which are not in an intimate mixture with another ingredient and thus are not comprised in a component of the composition. For example the composition may comprise a detergent ingredient sprayed onto the components or dry-added to the components.

Referring to Example 2J of the instant application, the degree of mixture (M) of anionic surfactant and aluminosilicate in the components of detergent composition 2J would be calculated as follows:

Determine the total anionic surfactant present in detergent composition 2J:

Total anionic surfactant in detergent composition 2J is (i.e.; total LAS and AS) is 14 parts

Determine fraction of anionic surfactant in each component of detergent composition 2J:

Fraction of anionic surfactant in Blown Powder is 0/14

Fraction of anionic surfactant in Agglomerates is 1/14

Fraction of anionic surfactant in Agglomerate is 13/14

Determine the total aluminosilicate present in detergent composition 2J:

Total aluminosilicate (i.e.; zeolite) in detergent composition 2J is 22 parts.

Determine fraction of aluminosilicate in each component of detergent composition 2J:

Fraction of aluminosilicate in Blown Powder is 12/22

Fraction of aluminosilicate in Agglomerates is 8/22

Fraction of aluminosilicate in Agglomerate is 0/22

Determine the degree of mixture of anionic surfactant and aluminosilicate in the components of detergent composition 2J according to the formula:

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \sqrt{(\sigma_i \cdot \zeta_i)}$$

With respect to the Blown powder: $\sqrt{(0/14 * 12/22)} = 0$

With respect to the Agglomerates: $\sqrt{(1/14 * 8/22)} = 0.16$

With respect to the Agglomerate: $\sqrt{(13/14 * 0/22)} = 0$

Hence, for detergent composition Example 2J, M = 0.16

As the Examiner's rejections of Claims 1 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. §112 have been overcome, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw this rejections.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Rejections

The Examiner rejects Claims 1 - 2 and 4 - 6 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being unpatentable over Boyer et al. U.S. 4,265,777. It is the Examiner's view that Boyer et al. teaches an aluminosilicate detergent composition wherein " $M = 0.18$ ".

The Examiner rejects Claims 1 - 2, and 4 - 6 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being unpatentable over Fleming et al. U.S. 4,000,094. It is the Examiner's view that Fleming et al. teaches a spray-dried detergent composition wherein " $M = 0.32$ ".

The Examiner rejects Claims 1 - 2, and 4 - 6 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being unpatentable over Taylor U.S. 4,243,544. It is the Examiner's view that Taylor teaches a spray-dried detergent composition wherein " $M = 0.11$ ".

The Examiner rejects Claims 1 - 2, and 4 - 6 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being unpatentable over Llendado U.S. 4,303,556. It is the Examiner's view that Llendado teaches a detergent composition wherein " $M = 0.21$ ".

The Examiner rejects Claims 1 - 2, and 4 - 6 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being unpatentable over Davey et al. U.S. 4,123,377. It is the Examiner's view that Davey et al. teaches a detergent composition containing bleaching agents wherein " $M = 0.16$ ".

The Examiner rejects Claims 1 - 3, 6, and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being unpatentable over Harris et al. U.S. 4,321,157. It is the Examiner's view that Harris et al. teaches a granular laundry detergent composition wherein " $M = 0.10$ ".

The Examiner rejects Claims 1 - 2, and 5 - 6 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being unpatentable over Cheng 4,414,130. It is the Examiner's view that Cheng teaches a readily disintegrable agglomerate detergent composition wherein " $M = 0.10$ ".

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's position. To anticipate a claim, the reference must teach every element of the claim. "A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." M.P.E.P. § 2131 citing *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 2 U.S.P.Q.2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). "The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the ... claim." M.P.E.P. § 2131 citing *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 9 U.S.P.Q.2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989).

With regard to all the references cited by the Examiner, it is not clear how the Examiner calculated " M ". Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to clarify his calculation. Furthermore, with regard to Sai et al., Boyer et al., Nicol, Fleming et al., Taylor, Llendado, Davey et al., and Cheng of, none of these references teach or suggest either expressly or inherently a composition having at least 2 components. Yet further, because none of these teach a composition having at least 2 components, an M value cannot be calculated for these references. Hence, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the U.S.C. §102(b) rejection over these references.

With regard to Harris et al., this reference does not teach or suggest a composition having at least 2 components which is phosphate-free. Example IX of Harris et al. requires in addition to

zeolite and surfactant, the addition of sodium tripolyphosphate. Thus, Harris et al. does not anticipate amended Claims 1 - 3, 6, or 9.

Hence, as the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) has been overcome, Applicants request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw this rejection and allow the claims remaining in the instant application.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejections

The Examiner rejects Claims 1, 2 and 4 - 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cheng et al. '130. It is the Examiner's view that it would have been obvious to include an effervescent system in the composition of Cheng et al. and so render the claims at hand obvious.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner. In order to sustain an obviousness rejection, "the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations." M.P.E.P. 2143. As discussed above, Cheng et al. does not teach either expressly or impliedly a detergent composition having at least 2 components as claimed by Applicants.

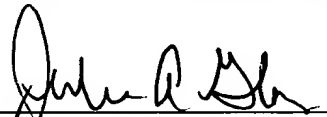
Hence, as the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) has been overcome, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw this rejection and allow the claims of the instant application.

SUMMARY

This is a Request for Continued Examination which includes Applicants' response to the Final Office Action dated April 3, 2002. Any fees associated with this Request for Continued Examination should be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-2480. A Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(4) is also included herewith.

The Examiner's rejections of the instant application under 35 U.S.C. §112, 35 U.S.C. §102(b), and 35 U.S.C. §103(a) have been overcome. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw these rejections and allow the claims in the instant application. No new matter is added.

Respectfully submitted,
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